

Topic Sentences and Examples

The main thing you need to know for
writing paragraphs.

Topic Sentences and Examples

All body paragraphs of an essay need to start with a topic sentence and include an example.

A topic sentence is a general statement about the topic that you are writing about. It answers the question in a broad way.

- *An example is a detail or specific description that can be used to 'prove' a topic sentence.*
- Such as: in an essay asking you to 'Describe the character of Chuck from Cast Away'
 - Topic sentence: Chuck Noland was obsessed with punctuality.
 - Example: When he is in Moscow setting up a new Fed-Ex office, he says, "We live and we die by time."

Cut out these sentences and put them in two groups - topic sentences and examples.

At the start of the film Chuck was a workaholic.
Chuck learns to survive on the island.
He works out, "That's a search area of 500,00 square miles," and also calculates how much rope he will need to complete his raft.
Chuck rubs two sticks together to make fire, shouting, "Look what I have created, I have made fire."
His personality changes to be more kind at the end of the film, when at the start he appeared to be quite selfish.
He is tanned and lean in the shots on the beach while he is building the boat, and he is able to climb to the top of the cliff to get the rope he left there without shoes on.
Chuck tells his friend that that he is very sorry he was not there when his wife died, and seems to be genuinely upset.
Chuck becomes strong and fit while he is on the island.
Chuck is very smart at mathematics and things to do with measuring and numbers.
When Chuck is in Moscow his colleagues tell a story about him stealing a bicycle from a little boy so he can successfully deliver the mail and do his job.

Topic sentences

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Examples

He works out, “That’s a search area of 500,00 square miles,” and also calculates how much rope he will need to complete his raft.

Chuck rubs two sticks together to make fire, shouting, “Look what I have created, I have made fire.”

He is tanned and lean in the shots on the beach while he is building the boat, and he is able to climb to the top of the cliff to get the rope he left there without shoes on.

Chuck tells his friend that that he is very sorry he was not there when his wife died, and seems to be genuinely upset.

When Chuck is in Moscow his colleagues tell a story about him stealing a bicycle from a little boy so he can successfully deliver the mail and do his job.

And these fit together like this...

Topic sentence: *At the start of the film Chuck was a workaholic.*

Example that shows this: *When Chuck is in Moscow his colleagues tell a story about him stealing a bicycle from a little boy so he can successfully deliver the mail and do his job.*

And these fit together like this...

Topic sentence: *Chuck learns to survive on the island.*

Example that shows this: *Chuck rubs two sticks together to make fire, shouting, “Look what I have created, I have made fire.”*

And these fit together like this...

Topic sentence: *Chuck becomes strong and fit while he is on the island.*

Example that shows this: *He is tanned and lean in the shots on the beach while he is building the boat, and he is able to climb to the top of the cliff to get the rope he left there without shoes on.*

And these fit together like this...

Topic sentence: *Chuck is very smart at mathematics and things to do with measuring and numbers.*

Example that shows this: *He works out, “That’s a search area of 500,00 square miles,” and also calculates how much rope he will need to complete his raft.*

And these fit together like this...

Topic sentence: *His personality changes to be more kind at the end of the film, when at the start he appeared to be quite selfish.*

Example that shows this: *Chuck tells his friend that that he is very sorry he was not there when his wife died, and seems to be genuinely upset.*

Challenge:

- Try to make your own topic sentence and example that supports it answering the question:
- **“Describe Chuck from Cast Away.”**
- You could use descriptions like... grumpy, smart, wise, caring, loving, lucky... Or something else.